

Santa Clara Valley Water District



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AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

June 16, 1998

Mr. Lester Snow
Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Lester:

SUBJECT: Santa Clara County Constituents' Interests in the CALFED Bay-Delta Program

As members of Congress, leaders of Santa Clara County's (County) local governments, water supply agencies, business and industries, and the agricultural and environmental communities, we would like to convey to you some of our key interests in the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.

Santa Clara County is home to 1.6 million residents, a \$30 billion export economy, and a valuable remnant of a once thriving ecosystem. We would like to promote continued economic vitality of our Silicon Valley and to protect and improve our quality of life and the environment of our region. A balanced, affordable, and equitable CALFED solution is a very important component of this continuing effort.

Ecosystem Restoration

As users of a natural resource critical to the Bay-Delta, the industries and citizens of Santa Clara County accept an ongoing responsibility for minimizing the impact our resource use has on that ecosystem and aiding in restoration where possible. We support CALFED's objective of restoring the Bay-Delta to a healthy, functioning system. Santa Clara Valley Water District has demonstrated this support through financial contributions to jump-start CALFED's ecosystem restoration program. We want to stress the interrelated nature of the Bay and Delta. Water, fisheries, and wildlife are shared in this complex system. Restoration should be viewed holistically.

Water Quality

The residents and industries of Santa Clara County deserve safe, clean, and high quality water. Water supply agencies and utilities continue to implement advanced treatment technologies to meet increasingly stringent regulatory standards. Many of the electronics and semiconductor companies have also invested in further treatment processes, such as reverse osmosis, to meet product demands. As drinking water quality standards get more stringent and recycling demands increase, the on-going need for source water quality improvements increases. We expect CALFED to meet

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its objective of providing good water quality for all beneficial uses, including our supply for municipal and industrial purposes. We support early implementation of water quality actions and a comprehensive monitoring program to start improving the water quality of the Delta and to determine the effectiveness of these actions.

Environmental Water Quality in the South Bay

Industries and cities within Santa Clara County have invested heavily in reducing point and nonpoint sources of discharge as our continuing collective effort to reduce toxicity in the streams and to improve the water quality of the South Bay. We expect other responsible parties to also commit to reducing pollutant discharge into the Bay-Delta system. Since the South Bay is an integral part of the San Francisco Bay-Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta Estuary, we believe our actions will improve the overall environmental quality and health of the Bay-Delta system. We, therefore, believe CALFED should include the South Bay in allocating ecosystem restoration and water quality program funding.

Conservation and Recycling

We strongly support conservation as a key element of the CALFED program. All of our local industries, residents, and agriculture have invested heavily in water conservation and reuse, as evidenced by the fact that it took ten years for the water use in the County to return to 1987 levels while the County was experiencing a period of rapid growth. We will commit to further water use efficiency as a way to reduce future demand. However, other water users, both agricultural and urban, must also commit to significant new efforts in water use efficiency. In addition, CALFED must promote the necessary financial investments and incentives along with institutional support in advancing demand management programs in order to achieve significant gains in conservation and meet the ambitious recycling goals.

Water Supply Reliability

Silicon Valley is dependent on a reliable and consistent high-quality supply of water. Santa Clara County relies on water imported from the Bay-Delta watershed for over half of its annual supply. The uncertainty of our imported supplies during the last drought has negatively influenced businesses' decisions to locate or expand in our region. Stakeholders in Santa Clara County have recently completed an integrated water resource planning process which will emphasize a strategy of conservation, recycling, banking, and transfers for meeting future demands. This strategy assumes a stable base supply of imported water from the State Water Project, the Central Valley Project, and Hetch Hetchy. We expect the CALFED process to restore the Bay-Delta ecosystem and enhance the stability in the state's water supply. Local water management agencies will then be able to maximize water conservation, recycling, transfers, and banking opportunities to supplement their base supplies.

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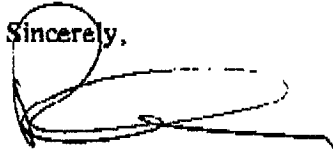
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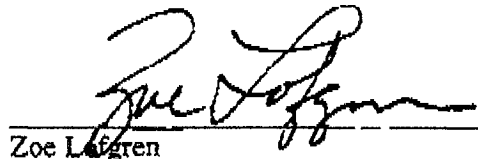
CALFED's Preferred Alternative

We support CALFED's stakeholder-inclusive process to develop a consensus package of long-term solutions. It is important to keep all of the options open as the various interests, both statewide and within local communities, continue to deliberate on the merits of each component and as they strive to reach consensus on a preferred alternative. Although we have not reached consensus on the preferred alternative, we agree to the key interests described in this letter and we are committed to a continuing open dialogue. We expect the final solution package to be equitable, affordable, and effective in achieving all of the objectives of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.

Sincerely,



Robert W. Gross, Ph.D.
Chair, Board of Directors
Santa Clara Valley Water District



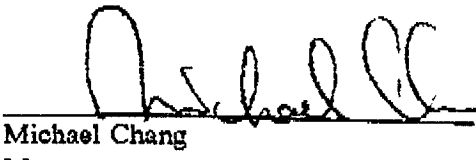
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



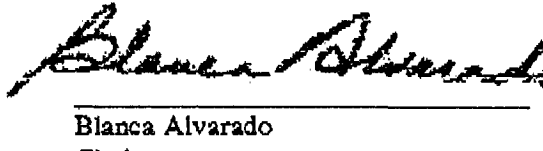
Susan Hammer
Mayor
City of San Jose



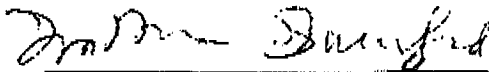
Tom Campbell
Member of Congress



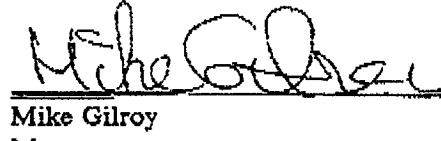
Michael Chang
Mayor
City of Cupertino



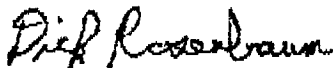
Blanca Alvarado
Chair
Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors



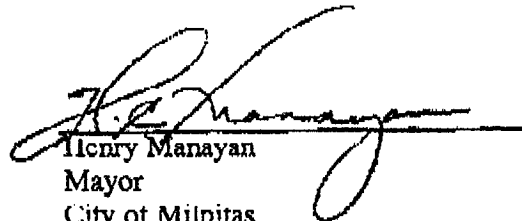
Dorthca Bamford
Vice-Mayor
City of Monte Sereno



Mike Gilroy
Mayor
City of Gilroy



Dick Rosenbaum
Mayor
City of Palo Alto



Henry Manayan
Mayor
City of Milpitas

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Jim Roberts
Mayor
City of Sunnyvale



Ralph Faravelli
Mayor
City of Mountain View



Steven J. Tedesco
President/CEO
San Jose Silicon Valley
Chamber of Commerce



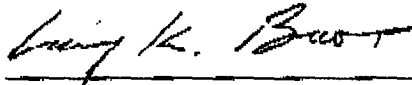
Donald Wolfe
Mayor
City of Saratoga



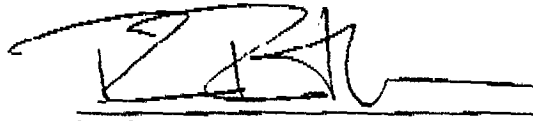
Charles Vecchio
President/CEO
Morgan Hill Chamber of Commerce



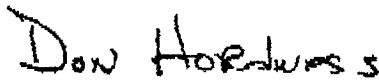
Carl Guardino
President/CEO
Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group



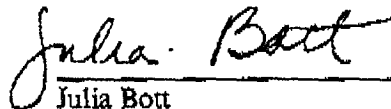
Craig K. Breon
Environmental Advocate
Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society



W. Richard Roth
President
San Jose Water Company



Don Hordness
President
Santa Clara County Farm Bureau



Julia Bott
Chapter Director
Sierra Club, Loma Prieta Chapter